

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 23 and 24 have been added in this amendment. Claims 1 and 3 - 22 as amended in the Supplemental Amendment After Final dated May 9, 2002 are requested to be entered. Therefore, claims 1 and 3 - 24 remain in the case. New claim 23 requires the step of integrating all the elements of the surface treatment process outside of the plasma zone. New claim 24 also requires that all elements of the device are integrated outside of the plasma zone. The Examiner indicated in a phone conversation that having no elements of the device integrated inside of the plasma zone is not shown or disclosed by Echizen. Echizen shows a dielectric tube 103 within the discharge region. Further, Echizen shows a plurality of rollers 113 located within the discharge region. As shown in the Figures 1 - 4, there are no elements of the device of the present invention located within the discharge region.

Further regarding the Advisory Action mailed June 7, 2002, the rejection to claim 1 is traversed. The Examiner states that the Applicant's specification on page 3, lines 11 - 13, where the Applicant describes a hollow cathode discharge according to the invention to include a discharge in the transition region between hollow cathode discharge and normal discharge indicates that the Applicant has not intended to limit their claims to a purely hollow cathode discharge. However, claim 1 has been narrowed to be restricted to the hollow cathode discharge, and not to include the normal discharge.

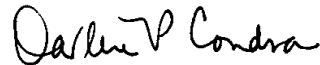
Further, the rejection of claim 14 is traversed for the same reasons as claim 1.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Consideration of the application as amended is requested. It is submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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